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**TESTIMONY RAISED BILL NO. 6862 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE PALLIATIVE
USE OF MARIJUANA FOR CHILDREN**

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 11, 2015

Good Day Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and esteemed members of the
Public Health Committee

Thank you, for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut
Nurses' Association (CNA) related **RAISED BILL NO. 6862 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY
OF THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA FOR CHILDREN.**

I am Mary Jane Williams Ph.D., RN current chairperson of Government Relations
Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association and professor emeritus from Central
Connecticut State University. I speak related to **RAISED BILL NO. 6862 AN ACT
CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA FOR CHILDREN.**

The controversy related to the Medical use of Marijuana is extremely controversial.
The current literature abounds with the advantages and the disadvantageous of using
Medical Marijuana. The American Academy of Pediatrics' came out strongly against its
use in 2014 and has revised their position this year. I have attached both papers.

The National Association also has a strong position statement related to medical and marijuana use and many believe Marijuana is a “Gateway Drug.” Multiple issues related to how you control and how it will be scheduled are concerns related in the current literature.

Therefore we ask you to carefully consider the impact of Children utilizing Marijuana for any condition until a concise review of the literature is conducted, and research into the issue is available for review. Colorado is in the process of looking at this issue currently.

The establishment of a study and a qualified study group is absolutely essential; in order to accomplish this goal you must bring together the experts in this area. It is essential that a study be designed utilizing appropriate individuals and study methodologies in order to protect the youth of our state. Therefore I speak in support of **RAISED BILL NO. 6862 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA FOR CHILDREN.**

Mary Jane M Williams PhD, RN

Chair Government Relations Committee, Connecticut Nurses Association

Professor Emeritus, CCSU

